

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been examined. Claims 3 and 14-21 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 7-10 would be allowed if rewritten independent form. However, Applicants respectfully hold such rewriting in abeyance at this time.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-6, 7, 9-10, 14-15 and 19-21 for various informalities.

Applicants submit these objections are moot with regard to claims 3, 14-15 and 19-21 as these claims are hereby canceled by this Amendment. With regard to claims 1-6, 7 and 9-10, Applicants submit the present claim amendments obviate these objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5 and 14 under § 112, second paragraph, alleging the phrase “or the like” renders the corresponding claims indefinite.

Applicants submit the present claim amendments and the cancellation of claim 14 obviate this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6 and claims 12-13 stand rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/17806A1 (hereinafter “WO ’806”). Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants submit ‘806 fails to disclose, at least, “wherein the residual lifetime is judged by a runnable time and/or distance calculated on the basis of the measured temperature until the trouble of the run-flat tire,” as recited in claim 1.

WO ‘806, as stated in claim 1 and on page 11, lines 25-31 thereof, discloses a method for monitoring a pneumatic tire on a vehicle characterized by measuring a temperature of the pneumatic tire, determining a first rate at which the temperature is changing and indicating when the first rate exceeds a first predetermined value.

However, WO ‘806 fails to disclose a process for quantitatively judging a residual lifetime, that is, a runnable time and/or distance of a run-flat tire during continuous running at a run-flat state in a vehicle, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, because WO ‘806 fails to disclose this feature, Applicants submit claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, Applicants submit claim 5 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency. The rejection of claim 3 is moot in view of the cancellation of that claim by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 11 stands rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO ‘806 in view of Masatoshi (US 6,701,986).

Applicants submit because Masatoshi, either taken alone or in combination with WO ‘806, fails to compensate for the above noted deficiencies of WO ‘806 as applied to claim 1, claim 11 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 14-16 and 18-21 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO ‘806 in view of Nowicki et al. (US 5,945,908).

Applicants submit this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 14-21 by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 17 stands rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO '806 in view of Nowicki et al. (US 5,945,908), in further view of Tanaka (US 6,701,986).

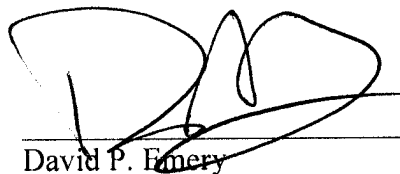
Applicants submit this rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 14-21 by this Amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David P. Emery
Registration No. 55,154

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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